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3 September 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: NIE-69: Probable Developments in North Africa

1. This estimate is designed to serve as the intelligence backing for a projected NSC policy statement on North Africa. It deals with six different political areas, none of them previously treated in an NIE.

2. The following points may be raised in the IAC:

a. Paragraph 6 (and Paragraph 11). O-2 has argued that there might be "organized large-scale revolts" in Tunisia and Morocco in a shorter time than is suggested by the words "several years." The Board believes that revolts of such magnitude are unlikely within the next five to ten years and favors the expression "several years" as an acceptable formula. State agreed with the Board and the text accords with this view. O-2 may ask the substitution of "four" for "several."

b. Paragraph 9. O-2 may propose that the text be changed to indicate that Communists may capture control of one or another nationalist movement within a "few" years. The Board believes that the present capabilities of Communists in North Africa are already somewhat overemphasized in this paper. We would prefer not to change this paragraph.

c. The service agencies will probably propose that the Appendix be deleted. On this subject see my memorandum of 2 September, setting forth the reasons why O/NE believes an Appendix to be appropriate.

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